

Cal Boating News



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
BOATING AND WATERWAYS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Boating Re-certifies Online Personal Watercraft Safety Course

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Boating and Waterways (Cal Boating) has re-certified PWCSafetySchool.com (www.pwcsafetyschool.com) to provide boater education in California. Of the 15 courses approved by Cal Boating to meet state boater education standards, PWCSafetySchool.com is the only free course that focuses on personal watercraft operation.

"In California, 63 percent of boaters have never taken a boating safety course. On our increasingly crowded waterways, it's important that everyone know the rules, what's expected of them, and how to be safe," said Raynor Tsuneyoshi, Director of Cal Boating. "It's in our best interest to partner with organizations that offer training in a variety of different formats. Our hope is that flexibility encourages more boaters to get trained."

PWCSafetySchool.com is supported by the U. S. Power Squadrons, the Northwest Personal Watercraft Safety Project and Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. "We wanted to make boating safety information accessible, and generate more interest in boating education among PWC users," said Roger Hagie, Kawasaki's Public Affairs Director. "PWCSafetySchool.com is an excellent way for us to extend our PWC education efforts." PWCSafetySchool.com has certified over 6,000 boaters nationally.

In addition to PWCSafetySchool.com, Californians have several boater education options to choose from, including courses from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons. Training is offered in on-line, hands-on, classroom and correspondence courses. All of the state-approved are approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) which sets standards for boater education nationwide. NASBLA-approved courses are accepted by most states that require proof of training to operate a vessel.

"Nationwide, more than thirty states now require certain boat operators to have basic safety training before they go out on the water, and more states are passing similar laws each year," said Tsuneyoshi. "Although California doesn't currently require it, I believe that if more people take a vessel safety course, the number of boating-related accidents, injuries and fatalities will drop."

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, in 2004 approximately 70 percent of all reported boating-related fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not received boating safety instruction.

Top 5 reasons to take a Cal Boating-approved boating safety course:

- Prevent boating accidents, injuries and deaths.
- Avoid receiving a citation by learning the state's boating laws and regulations.
- Avoid costly vessel damage by learning to operate the vessel properly.
- Possibly earn a discount on boat insurance (check with your insurance agent).
- Meet boater certification requirements to boat in some neighboring states.
- Meet court-ordered training requirement after being convicted of a moving violation.

The Department of Boating and Waterways promotes on-the-water safety and helps develop convenient public access to the waterways through programs funded by vessel registration fees, boating fuel tax dollars and boating facility construction loan payments.

State-approved boater education courses

-- MORE --

ONLINE/COMPUTER COURSES:

American Boat Operators Course

American Boating Education

1-877-677-BOAT

www.amboat.com website

Boat California

Boat Ed

214-351-0461

www.boat-ed.com

Boat U.S. Online Boating Safety Course

Boat U.S. Foundation

410-897-0512

www.boatus.com

BoaterExam.com

BoaterExam America

866-688-2628

www.boaterexam.com/usa/california/

PWCSafetySchool.com

www.pwcsafety.school.com

Smart Boating With Captain Steve

Maritime Smart Inc.

413-565-2628

www.maritimesmarts.com Website

HANDS-ON COURSE:

Boating 101

530-662-4577

www.Boating101.org

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE:

California Boating: A Course for Safe Boating

California Department of Boating and Waterways

1-888-362-2822

www.dbw.ca.gov website

CLASSROOM COURSES:

Basic Keelboard Sailing

American Sailing Association

310-822-7171

www.american-sailing.com website

Boater 101

Marine University (CEERI)

954-730-6889

www.marineuniversity.org

Boating Skills and Seamanship

US Coast Guard Auxiliary

1-800-336-2628

http://nws.cgaux.org/visitors/pe_visitor/index.html

America's Boating Course

US Coast Guard Auxiliary

1-800-336-2628

www.cgaux.org/

America's Boating Course

US Power Squadrons

1-800-732-7545

www.usps.org/e_stuff/ABC.html

Boat Smart

US Power Squadrons

1-800-732-7545

www.usps.org/e_stuff/ABC.html

Squadron Boating Course

US Power Squadrons

1-800-732-7545

www.usps.org/e_stuff/ABC.html

Safe Powerboat Handling

US Sailing

401-683-0800 ext. 631

www.ussailing.org